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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHARGED IN STUDENT LOAN FRAUD**

**PHOENIX** -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 4, 2004, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, returned a three-count indictment against Jesus Jose Serrano-Gil, DOB 3/7/76, who claimed residence in Glendale, Ariz.

The indictment alleges that Serrano-Gil falsely claimed to be a United States Citizen, and by so doing obtained Federal Student Aid. The defendant was arrested on a complaint on July 20, 2004 and is currently in custody on these charges.

According to the complaint, only U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are eligible for Federal Student Aid, such as Stafford Loans and Pell Grants. The complaint alleges that Serrano-Gil presented Arizona State University with a birth certificate showing he was born in Maricopa County, Ariz.. By falsely claiming to be a U.S. citizen, he was then able to obtain approximately \$47,770 in Federal Student Aid between 1997 and December of 2000. The complaint alleges the birth certificate was counterfeit and Serrano-Gil was a citizen of Mexico.

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The federal indictment charges Serrano-Gil with violating Title 20 of U.S. Code, Section 1097(a), Student Aid Fraud; Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 641, Theft of Government Property; Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 911, False Claim to Citizenship.

A conviction for Student Loan Fraud carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both; Theft of Government property carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both; False Claim to Citizenship a maximum penalty of three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Border Patrol.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

COMPLAINT NUMBER: 04-3134M  
CASE NUMBER: CR-04-0816  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-130

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